

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE
GOVERNOR OF TAMILNADU AT THE INAUGURATION OF
32ND YEAR UNIVERSAL PEACE CONCERANCE AT
THIRUVANNAMALAI ON 15.03.2018 AT 4.00 P.M.**

AnaivarukkumMaalai Vanakkam

Thiru M.O.H.F. Shajahan
Minister of Pondicherry

Sri VallalarArulmaniSwamigal
Peedathipathi, Tiruvannamalai

Sri BalamuruganAdimalSwamigal
ArulmiguBalamurugan Temple, Rathnagiri

Sri SachithananthaSwamigal
Kalavaikamalakanni Amman Temple

Sri OngaranathaSwamigal
OngaraAshramam, Chennai

Sri Siva ShanmugaSwamigal
Sri BalamuruganThirukovil, Kangeyanoor

Distinguished Invitees
Friends from the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am happy to be here to inaugurate the Universal Peace Conference being organized by South India SanmargaSangam. The fact that the Conference is being held at Tiruvannamalai adds lustre to the event.

In the Shivpuranam, Tiruvannamalai has been identified as one of the four sacred places for attaining salvation. It is again at Tiruvannamalai that the manifestation of Lord Siva to represent the element of fire is found. Great Nayanmars such as Thirunavukkarasar, Thirugnanasambandar and Sundarar have all prayed at Tiruvannamalai and the NayanmarManickavasagar spent long periods here during which he composed the 'Thiruvempavai'. This place

is also known all over the world as the centre which provided enlightenment to Sri Ramalingal Adigal who lived amongst the people healing their ailments and teaching them the principles of Samarasa Suddha Sanmargam.

Pilgrims come in large numbers to worship at the temple of Arunachalaswara on Oournamiday, that is the day of the full moon. Arunam means sun and achalam means mountain – thus Arunachalam means the holy mountain which is red in colour. Pilgrims take delight in performing girivalam around the temple on full moon day. I mention all these points to bring out the fact that there cannot be a better place than Tiruvannamalai for holding a conference of Sanmarga Sangam.

Samarasa Suddha Sanmargam is a happy combination of spiritual experience and service to fellow beings. This path is a guiding principle to enable people to go beyond the limits of their religion and shed all differences of caste, creed and nationality, etc. so as to reach the higher spiritual realisation of ultimate reality. In other words, it means the direct perception of and communion with the light of supreme grace, which is 'Arutperumjothi'. The effulgence of the divine is seen in the 'Arutperumjothi' and the realisation of this by the soul enables the being to realise God in entirety.

The realisation of God enables an individual to become a better citizen. It ensures the upholding of the qualities of love, compassion and tolerance in society, thus paving the way for peace and universal brotherhood. When man realises God, he sheds attachment to material linkages and becomes an uplifted soul. Such a person always works for the benefit of the society, the nation and the world. For such a person the world is one family. Hence the term Vasudaiva Kutumbakam is used in our religious texts.

Through this Conference a clarion call is being given for the establishment of peace and brotherhood in society. The conduct of many such conferences all over the State, all over the country and all over the world will enable mankind to engage in selfless pursuits aimed at enhancing the quality of life, without being bogged down by selfish and material pursuits aimed at satisfying the self. The organisers have indeed taken special efforts

to work for the success of this Universal Peace Conference by inviting leaders of philosophy from all over the State.

I wish the organisers all success in their endeavours.

Nandri

Vanakkam

Jai Hind

Jai Tamil Nadu